



# Information About Durham's Upcoming Street Bond Referendum

## **The Problem:**

- Durham's spending on streets and sidewalks was far too low for decades.
- The City was spending only enough to repave each street every 80 years.
- A 20-year repaving cycle keeps streets in good shape.
- Potholes, cracked pavement and bumps rattle both residents and visitors.
- Approximately 40 percent of Durham's streets are rated "very poor" or "poor."
- Cost escalation of materials for paving continues to rise.

## **Major Progress:**

- Voters approved \$18.5 million for streets and sidewalks as part of the 2005 \$110 million bond referendum.
- The City will have spent or encumbered **all** those funds by the end of this year.
- All or parts of 158 streets have been repaved during 2006 and 2007.
- 41 percent of streets are rated very good or good.
- More sidewalks are to be repaired by year's end.
- City crews are doing more patching and other repair going forward.

## **Still a Big Need:**

- More than 220 miles of Durham streets still need repaving.
- More than 20 miles of dirt streets need paving.
- More than 90 miles of sidewalks need maintenance.

## **The Plan:**

- The City is undertaking a referendum for a new \$20 million street and sidewalk bond.
- \$15 million would pave about 100 miles of streets; most of these streets are rated "very poor" or "poor."
- \$2 million would pave more than 1 mile of dirt streets.
- \$3 million would fix more than 3 miles of sidewalks.
- The City would maintain its best-in-country credit rating and get low interest rates.
- Growth may fund part or all of repayments; if not, the maximum property tax increase, at 1 cent per \$100 of value, would be less than \$15 per year for a \$150,000 home.
- This is the only City bond referendum on this year's ballot.

***Please remember to vote November 6.***